


<b>MARICOPA COUNTY</b>  HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT Workforce Development Division	<b>SECTION/REFERENCE</b> Federal Register/Vol.65, No.156, Part 664; Public Law 129 (c)(1)(2)	<b>PAGE 1 OF 2</b>
	<b>ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>REVISION DATE</b> June 2013
	<b>AUTHORIZED BY:</b> Patricia Wallace, Assistant Director	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Introduction to WIA Maricopa Workforce Connection Youth Programs		<b>ADDENDA:</b>

### Background:

The purpose of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) is to “provide workforce investment activities through statewide and local workforce investment systems, that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation.”

Title I of the Workforce Investment Act provides local areas with three funding streams to make services available to Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth. The purpose of youth workforce investment activities are intended to provide development services for economically disadvantaged youth 14 through 21 years of age who may face barriers to staying in school, completing high school or finding stable employment.

The goal of Maricopa County’s Workforce Investment Board (MWC) and Maricopa County Human Services Department (MCHSD) is to provide a comprehensive workforce development system under which Maricopa County residents can access appropriate job training and educational opportunities.

### Purpose:

The purpose of WIA is to improve the quality of the workforce by providing workforce investment activities through statewide and local workforce investment systems and increasing the employment opportunities, employee retention and earnings of participants.

The WIA Youth Program Design and Program Elements (P.L. Section 129 (c) (1), (2)), defines the ten program elements that a local program must make available to youth participants. The ten service elements mandated in WIA are:

1. Tutoring, study skills training and instruction leading to secondary school completion, including dropout prevention strategies
2. Alternative secondary school
3. Summer Employment Opportunities
4. Paid and unpaid work experience
5. Occupational skill training
6. Leadership development
7. Supportive services

8. Adult mentoring
9. Follow-up Services for a minimum of 12 months after exit
10. Comprehensive guidance and counseling, as well as referrals to counseling, as appropriate to the needs of the individual youth

### **Maricopa Workforce Connection**

There are thirteen local workforce areas within the State of Arizona. The statewide system, known as Arizona Workforce Connections (AWC) is overseen by the Governor's Workforce Arizona Council (WAC). AWC is the "brand" adopted by the WAC for the statewide system. The Maricopa Workforce Connection (MWC) is a part of the Maricopa County Human Services Department Workforce Development Division and is the local workforce area for Maricopa County, which is an affiliate of AWC.

The MWC Youth Programs Philosophy, Mission, and Vision Statements are as follows:

Our Philosophy is the belief that:

- All youth can learn and achieve;
- All youth can increase awareness and share ideas;
- All youth deserve to experience meaningful participation;
- We must encourage and empower youth to their fullest potential; and
- We must recognize our interaction with youth as a united and equal opportunity partnership.

Our **Mission** is to create and improve academic, occupational, and civic opportunities for youth to succeed by providing comprehensive, quality support for their transition from experiential adolescence to competent adulthood.

Our **Vision** is to empower the emerging and growing generation to achieve life-long success, contributing to the overall well-being of their community.